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FLOOR DEBATE

March 16, 2004      LB 944, 1084

NPMs so that in future lawsuits brought by the state against these manufacturers for the health effects and costs of smoking, there would be a fund of money available to pay the judgment. And the bill would then also, of course, promote the public health increase...or interest by increasing the price of cigarettes produced by those nonparticipating manufacturers now getting a release from escrow. It's technical in nature, but it is a model bill that many other states have already entered into. I would just ask for the adoption of LB 944. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Jensen. We have no further speakers, Senator Jensen, do you wish to close? We have Senator Vrtiska. Senator Vrtiska waives. Senator Jensen, anything?

SENATOR JENSEN: No.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. You've heard the closing. All in favor of advancing LB 944 to E & R Initial vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 944.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: LB 944 is advanced.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill, LB 1084 by Senator Erdman and others. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 14 of this year, referred to Health and Human Services for public hearing, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM2590, Legislative Journal page 645.)

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. LB 1084 is before you after my office and myself, working with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Attorney General's Office and others, including those who you have seen on the committee statement who showed up in opposition